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Senate

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the President protempore [Mr. BYRD].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The prayer to Almighty God, the supreme Judge of the world, will be led by the Senate Chaplain, the Rev. Dr. Lloyd J. Ogilvie. Dr. Ogilvie, please.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Creator, Sustainer and Providential source of all our blessings. We praise you for the freedom of religion in America guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. There is no separation between God and State. With gratitude we declare our motto "In God we trust." Though that trust may be expressed in different religions, we do proclaim You as ultimate Sovereign of our Nation. Our Founders declared their trust in You and in each stage of our development You have guided us through peril and prosperity, peace and war. Thank You for Your faithfulness to respond to our confession of trust in You.

It is with reverence that in a moment we will repeat the words of commitment to trust You which are part of our Pledge of Allegiance to our flag: "One Nation under God, indivisible."

Help us to savor these words this morning. May we never lose a profound sense of awe and wonder over the privilege You have given us to live in this religiously free land. Renew our sense of accountability to You, and never take for granted the freedom we enjoy or the accountability we have to You. As we declare our convictions in the Pledge, we affirm that patriotism is an essential expression of our trust in You

Specifically for today and its pressing agenda and challenges we affirm we are one Senate united under You to lead a nation that is free to say confidently, "In God We Trust."

God our Sovereign, we continue the work of this busy week with the words

and music of the Fourth of July celebration sounding in our souls. We pray together today, remembering the first prayer of dependence prayed for the delegates to the Continental Congress in 1774 that eventually led to the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Now before the fireworks begin, work in us the fire of that same dependence on You that has been the secret of truly great leaders throughout our history. We pray for the women and men of this Senate. Enlarge their hearts until they are big enough to contain the gift of Your Spirit; expand their minds until they are capable of thinking Your thoughts; deepen their mutual trust so that they can work harmoniously for what is best for this Nation. You know all the legislation to be debated and voted on before recess. Grant the Senators an unprecedented dependence on You, an unreserved desire to seek Your will, and an unlimited supply of Your supernatural strength.

With renewed dependence on You and renewed interdependence on one another as fellow patriots, help us to be willing, in the spirit of our Founders, to stake our reliance on You and pledge our lives, fortunes, and sacred honor for the next stage of Your strategy for America: God bless America!

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore [Mr. BYRD] led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

THANKING THE CHAPLAIN

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I know I speak for all of our colleagues in thanking Chaplain Ogilvie for his wonderful prayer this morning. He spoke for all of us. We are one nation under God, and we reaffirm that today as Americans—not as Republicans or as Democrats—and we do so proudly.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, there will be a vote on cloture at 10:30 this morning. The time between now and then will be divided equally between the Republican leader or his designee, who will have the first half of the time, and the Democratic leader or his designee for the second half. Senators should be aware that within the next 50 minutes, we will have a cloture vote, and we will proceed in an effort to try to complete work on the Defense bill today.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. The first half of the time shall be under the control of the Republican leader or his designee; the second half of the time shall be under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

Who seeks recognition?

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

